

# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Research Activity Panel Meeting Minutes

Ocean View Conference Room,  
Monterey Bay Aquarium,  
Monterey California  
Friday, September 16, 1994 - 0830 to 1200 hrs

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

Aaron King, Monterey Bay NMS - RAP Executive Coordinator

## Member Attendees

George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG  
Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs, RAP Chairman  
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation  
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School  
Steve Eittreim, USGS  
Terry Jackson, Manager, Monterey Bay NMS  
Deborah Johnston, CA Dept. of Fish and Game/Monterey Bill Schramm, OAR  
Jim Rote, NOAA/OCRM  
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs  
Jan Roletto, GFNMS  
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS

## Members Not Able to Attend:

Rick Starr, Univ. of CA, Sea Grant Advisory Program  
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Marine Pollution Studies Lab  
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Bruce Robison, MBARI  
Don Potts, UCSC  
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station  
Cliff Hoskins, Department of the Interior  
Les Strnad, California Coastal Commission  
Stephen Mueller, Morro Bay Foundation

## Guest Attendees:

Donna Meyers, AMBAG  
Jon Cappella, Owner/Operator, Tri-Sharks Charter Service  
Rachel Saunders, CMC

Greg Cailliet, RAP Chair, introduced the meeting.

## Quick discussion items:

**Introductions** - Introductions were made around the table.

**Minutes** - Laura Ehret pointed out two typos in the minutes.

One was a typo dealing with the Institutional Permits section. The second was the omission of a mention of the Youngbluth/Robison proposal that was also being considered by the RAP for a letter of endorsement. King stated that Rote had sent his comments (chiefly that the proposal did not discuss the Sanctuary) to Robison and Youngbluth and that they agreed to incorporate his comments. The minutes were then unanimously approved.

**Report of the Chair on the Last SAC Meeting (Cailliet) -**

The Chair described the topics and the discussion that had taken place at the recent SAC meeting held on August 24, 1994, down near San Simeon. These topics included: A resolution was passed, and letter sent to the Coast Guard, with suggestions for measures the Coast Guard and others should look into to help prevent oil spills; a discussion of a 1994 Congressional report on Sanctuaries; a summary of a 1994 recreational boating report; the use of interns in helping the Sanctuary work on various issues (Bill Schramm mentioned that the Monterey Academy of Oceanography would be generating some potential interns within the next couple of years, and the MBNMS and the RAP's institutions should look into use of these interns); the Congressional directive to get User Fees to help pay for part of the Sanctuary's budget (A letter was sent by the SAC to numerous individuals stating that the SAC was unanimously opposed to such user fees; It was encouraged that the individual institutions represented by the RAP also write letters of support/opposition on the User Fee. Aaron was asked to put together a short subject analysis, and send it around to the RAP institutions with addresses to write; Jade Cove is still being looked at by the Sanctuary program; Finally, a letter was sent by the SAC to the Director of CDFG to encourage them to resolve the problems of staffing with the Bluefin.

**SW Regional Marine Research Board Draft Plan Review** - Jim Rote wrote a letter to Dr. Sullivan asking that the board amend the draft plan to recognize and emphasize the importance of research within the region's National Marine Sanctuaries. It was also encouraged that Terry Jackson attempt to make it known through the official NOAA channels that the Sanctuary program should be highlighted within each of the Regional Plans, especially MBNMS since it had already developed a Research Plan of its own.

**Fort Ord Assessment (Cailliet)** - Greg reported that his Committee (Mark Stephenson, Bill Broenkow, Steve Eittreim and Jim Oakden) were still working with the Army to encourage them to study the potential environmental risks off Ft. Ord.

**SAC Strategic Planning Committee (Cailliet)** - This is a project in progress headed by Tami Grove and is intended to give long-term direction to the SAC.

**Institutional Permits (King)** - Nothing new since the last meeting.

**Site Characterization RFP (King)** - No new word, Aaron stated that he was unaware if the money had been given to the researchers yet.

**EcoNet Update (King)** - Nothing new to report.

**Permit Report (King)** - Aaron verbally updated the last permit report that was sent out dated August 24, 1994, these updates included: an extension to the ATOC mammal surveys; a request by ATOC to recover some lost equipment on Sur Ridge; determination that no permit was required by the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation for its tagging operation; a request by Rikk Kvitek at MLML for a benthic disturbance study on bottom trawling.

**Letter to RAP from MBNMS Manager on Chumming and Traditional Fishing (Cailliet) -**

Terry briefed the RAP on the history of this issue, and summarized his letter to the RAP asking for the RAP's analysis of what constitutes traditional chum, fishing and other issues surrounding shark fishing. There was some discussion about the various shark chumming activities that go on in the Sanctuary, and Jon Cappella explained to the RAP how his activity operated. There was also a discussion on exactly what the regs said on this subject at present. The RAP decided to set up a subcommittee to investigate the questions asked in Terry's letter. This subcommittee was established

with Deborah Johnston (Chair), Jan Roletto, George Boehlert, and Aaron King (Facilitator). Rachel Saunders offered Marci Glazer's services for input. Jon Cappella offered his services for anything he could do to provide help or input. Aaron also stated that Sean Van Sommeran has also stated in the past that he would be willing to offer any input/help he could. George stated that he would look into how Hawaii recently tackled a similar problem there.

**Research Budget (Jackson)** - The MBNMS Research Budget is presently looking like it's going to be about \$80,000, down from about \$200,000.

**Partnership Programs (Schramm)** - Bill announced that there is some money now available from NOS for programs that involve 2 Offices of NOS, and an external partner.

**RAP Binder (King)** - Aaron stated that he would alter the binder presently being created by Scott for the SAC, to the needs of the RAP. Will report back at next meeting.

**MBNMS Researcher Directory (King)** - Aaron asked the RAP what the format was they wanted him to follow, the example being the one produced a few years ago by Sam Farr's office. Aaron was encouraged to contact Sam Farr's office and see what they were planning to do in the direction of an update. From there the MBNMS could coordinate or take over the project. Jan Roletto suggested that the directory be a combined effort with the GFNMS office.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Chevrolet Outdoor Conservation Award (Cailliet)** - The RAP was requested to nominate someone for this award. Gary Sharp nominated Ken Norris. This nomination was voted on and carried unanimously without debate.

Discussion ensued on several handouts that were passed around to the RAP. It was decided that the RAP should have a presentation on EPA's EMAP project at the November meeting.

**OSSPRE Report (DeVogelaere)** - Andrew was asked to incorporate all the comments that had been received, compose a letter and send make it available for each of the RAP members to see. After allowing for about 2 weeks more for comments, the final would be sent to NSF. Andrew said that if the Education Panel's letter had not been sent already, he would send it out with the RAP's.

**Proposal Review Subcommittee Report (Schramm):** The subcommittee on proposal reviews (appointed at the last meeting and including Schramm (Chair), Yoklavich, Boehlert and King) met last week and submitted a report to the RAP on a recommended policy for reviewing research proposals that were submitted to the RAP or the Sanctuary for a letter of endorsement. The subcommittee's recommendation was discussed and amended by the RAP to read as follows:

- Upon receipt of a research proposal by the Sanctuary office (or the RAP), the Chair has it at its discretion to appoint a member(s) of the RAP to conduct a review of the project from the prospective of whether or not the project meets the research goals, objectives and priorities of the Sanctuary program and those stated in the MBNMS Research Plan. This review would not cover the scientific merit of the project. The reviewer would be given a "checklist" (Appendix 1) to follow in the review process (draft attached), and would be required to write a short statement, for inclusion in the support letter (Appendix 2), stating the reason why the projects meets the research goals, objective and priorities of the Sanctuary program and the Research Plan. The reviewer would also be required to brief the RAP at the next meeting of the review given. If the project does not meet the stated objectives, the reviewer would report this back to the RAP Chair.
- If the conclusion is that the project does meet these objectives, the completed checklist and short "reason statement" would then be given to the Sanctuary Manager. The Sanctuary Manager would amend the support letter (Appendix 2) with the "reason statement" included in the text, and send it off to the funding organization with his signature and that of the RAP Reviewer(s).

**MBNMS Research Coordinator Position Description (Jackson)** - From a form Research Coordinator position description done previously by the Sanctuary program, the RAP discussed and offered suggestions for the description

which would be appropriate for such a position in the MBNMS area (for details, see the Position Description finalized by the MBNMS Office with input from the RAP). There was a general feeling among the RAP that, in addition to the previously stated requirements in the PD, that an additional requirement should be that the Research Coordinator is an actual researcher, and that person should be given leeway by the Sanctuary manager to keep somewhat of an active hand within his or her field of marine research.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

**Other Old Business** - None

**New Business** - None

**Meeting adjourned by the Chair.**